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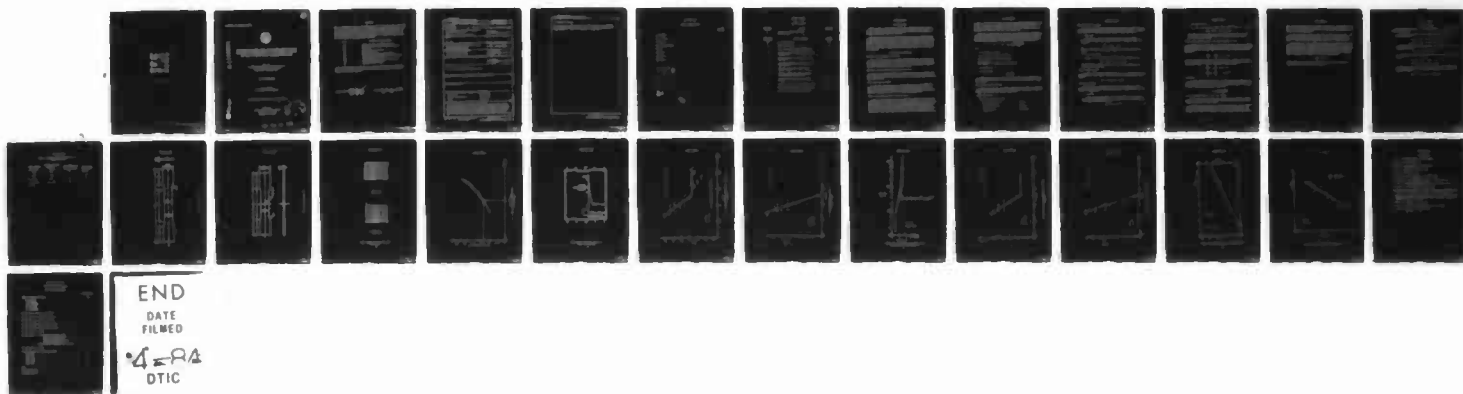
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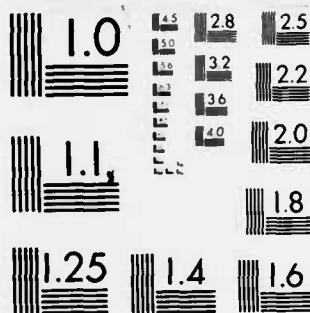
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REPORT NO. NADC-83133-60



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**CORROSION AND LOAD TRANSFER EFFECTS ON
FATIGUE OF MECHANICALLY FASTENED JOINTS
FATIGUE OF ZERO LOAD TRANSFER SPECIMEN**

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4 OCTOBER 1983

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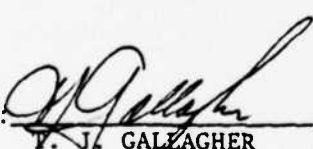
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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This IR program studies the effects of load transfer and corrosive environment on fatigue of mechanically fastened joints. As an initial part of the program, the fatigue crack initiation and growth, and the final fracture in zero load transfer specimens of 7475-T7351 aluminum alloy were investigated. The applied stress range $\Delta\sigma$ was related to the fatigue crack initiation life N_i and the total fatigue life N_f by empirical equations of the forms $\log N_i = a - b \Delta\sigma$ and $\log N = a - b (\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$. The variation of fatigue crack growth rate with stress intensity factor		

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20. ABSTRACT (continued)

range was defined, by $da/dN = (5.45 \times 10^{-9}) \cdot (\Delta K)^{2.94}$. The proportion of fatigue crack initiation and growth lives was determined as a function of the stress range and the total fatigue life $N_i/N_f = 1 - N_p/N_f = 1.73 - 0.04 \Delta \sigma = 1 - 245 N_f^{-0.63}$

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INTRODUCTION

Mechanically fastened joints facilitate ready assembly and disassembly of structural parts for construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement. They significantly affect both fabrication cost and structural reliability in aircraft. Most importantly, however, mechanically fastened joints are a principal source of aircraft structural failures in service.

Where varying loads are applied, the mechanically fastened joints become particularly susceptible to fatigue cracking. Such fatigue cracking is influenced greatly by load transfer through fasteners and aggravated by a corrosive environment. To understand the effect of load transfer, the baseline knowledge on the fatigue cracking, unaffected by any load transfer, is essential. This part of the IR program aims to characterize the phenomenon of fatigue cracking in a zero load transfer specimen. Employing a dogbone specimen, which has an open-hole simulating a fastener-hole at the center and is free of any load transfer, the behaviors of fatigue crack initiation and growth, and final fracture were investigated.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

MATERIAL AND SPECIMEN PREPARATION

Since 7475-T7351 aluminum alloy is increasingly used for aircraft structural components, its plate, 1/4 in. thick, was selected as the specimen material. Dogbone specimens were prepared from the plate to have the longitudinal axis in the original plate drawing direction, figure 1. The specimen for fatigue test has an open-hole of 1/4 in. dia. at the center, figure 2; whereas, that for tensile test has no hole. The specimen hole was made by drilling and reaming.

DETERMINATION OF STRESS CONCENTRATION FACTOR

By employing the photoelasticity method, the elastic strains and stresses were measured along the horizontal axis in a dogbone specimen with an open-hole at the center under a vertical tension. With those elastic stresses and the gross stress of the specimen, the corresponding stress concentration factors were determined.

TENSILE AND FATIGUE TESTS

Both the tensile and fatigue tests were done on a closed-loop electro-hydraulic 90563 MTS system in a controlled laboratory atmosphere of 75° F and 45% relative humidity. The tensile test was performed, using dogbone specimens, at loading rate of 50,000 psi/min. The fatigue test was executed, using open-hole dogbone specimens, under constant amplitude loading of a haversine waveform with a stress ratio ($\sigma_{\min}/\sigma_{\max}$) of $R = 0.05$ and a frequency of 10 Hz.

DETECTION AND MEASUREMENT OF FATIGUE CRACK

Fatigue cycling was stopped at various loading intervals, and the specimen hole was inspected with a MAGNAFLUX HT-100 Eddy Current Hole Scanner for a possible crack initiation. Any crack presence is indicated by a group of eddy current signal spikes, whose heights are proportional to the depths at several crack front points, figure 3. The greatest height of the eddy current signal spikes was converted to the crack depth by comparing with the data from EDM (Electrical Discharge Machining) notches of known depths, 0.008, 0.015, 0.030, and 0.060 in. in a geometrically similar calibration standard of the same material. The determined crack depth was plotted against the corresponding number of loading cycles, and a crack growth curve was established. From this curve,

the particular number of loading cycles to produce a 0.01 in. deep crack was taken and defined as the fatigue crack initiation life in this study, figure 4. (Though the Eddy Current Hole Scanner is capable of finding smaller cracks, e.g. 0.005 in. deep cracks, it can detect 0.01 in. deep cracks more accurately and reliably. Other investigators^{1,2} also defined the number of loading cycles required to produce a 0.01 in. deep crack as the fatigue crack initiation life.)

When the crack became visible on the specimen surface, the cyclic loading was stopped and the crack length was measured visually using a traveling microscope. This measurement was repeated until the crack tip reached an edge of the specimen or the specimen was fractured. Then the rate of crack growth da/dN was determined. The corresponding stress intensity factor range ΔK was calculated for a single crack emanating from the open-hole, employing the following equations³⁻⁶.

$$\Delta K = \Delta \sigma \sqrt{\pi a} \cdot F_1(a/r) \cdot \sqrt{\sec \left\{ \frac{\pi(a+2r)}{2W} \right\}} \quad (1)$$

where

$\Delta \sigma$: stress range, ($\sigma_{\max} - \sigma_{\min}$)

a : length of crack emanating from open-hole

$F_1(a/r)$: Bowie factor for single hole-edge crack

$\sqrt{\sec \left\{ \frac{\pi(a+2r)}{2W} \right\}}$: correction factor for specimen width

r : radius of open-hole

W : specimen width

RESULTS

The results are divided into six parts: stress concentration factor, tensile properties, fatigue crack initiation, fatigue crack growth, fatigue fracture, and proportion of fatigue crack initiation and growth lives.

STRESS CONCENTRATION FACTOR

The determined stress concentration factor K_t decreases with the distance from the hole edge, drastically in its immediate vicinity, along the horizontal axis, figure 5. The maximum stress concentration factor occurs at the hole edge and its value is 3.12.

TENSILE PROPERTIES

The result of tensile test is as follows:

yield stress (0.2% offset):	64.5 ksi
ultimate tensile stress:	73.5 ksi
elastic modulus:	9.7×10^3 ksi

FATIGUE CRACK INITIATION

From the results of fatigue test and crack inspection, the relationship of applied stress range $\Delta\sigma$ and fatigue crack initiation life N_i can be described by two different plots of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$ and $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$. ($\Delta\sigma_{th}$ is the threshold stress range for fatigue crack initiation.)

a. $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$

The plot of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$ has the feature of a typical S-N curve with a knee at $\Delta\sigma_{th} = 17.2$ ksi, figure 6. For $\Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$, the plot results in a straight line, defined by the equation

$$\log N_i = 8.51 - 0.17 \Delta\sigma \quad (2)$$

Below $\Delta\sigma_{th}$, no detectable crack was initiated within the limit number of loading cycles employed.

b. $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$

The plot of $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$ is a straight line, figure 7, defined by the equation

$$\log N_i = 5.63 - 0.17 (\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th}) \quad (3)$$

Its intercept 5.63 is less than and its slope -0.17 is identical to the corresponding value of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$ plot for $\Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$.

FATIGUE CRACK GROWTH

The variation of fatigue crack growth rate da/dN with stress intensity factor range ΔK follows a sigmoidal curve, as shown in figure 8. The log-linear portion of the curve takes a form of Paris' equation⁶

$$da/dN = (5.45 \times 10^{-9}) \cdot (\Delta K)^{2.94} \quad (4)$$

FATIGUE FRACTURE

The fatigue fracture life or total fatigue life N_f , the number of fatigue loading cycles to fracture, can be represented as a function of stress range $\Delta\sigma$ by two different curves of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_f$ and $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_f$.

a. $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_f$

The curve of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_f$ has a form similar to a typical S-N curve and the curve of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$, and it has a knee at $\Delta\sigma_{th} = 17.2$ ksi, figure 9. For $\Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$, the data can be fit in a straight line defined by the equation

$$\log N_f = 8.19 - 0.15 \Delta\sigma \quad (5)$$

b. $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_f$

The curve of $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_f$ is a straight line, figure 10, defined by the equation

$$\log N_f = 5.64 - 0.15 (\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th}) \quad (6)$$

Its intercept 5.64 is less than and its slope -0.15 is identical to the corresponding value of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_f$ curve for $\Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$. Furthermore, the intercept 5.64 is close to that of $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$ curve 5.63.

PROPORTION OF FATIGUE CRACK INITIATION AND GROWTH LIVES

The fraction of total fatigue life spent for crack initiation or the ratio of fatigue crack initiation life to total fatigue life, N_i/N_f , was found to vary between 0.61 and 0.91, increasing with decreasing stress range. The reverse is true for the fatigue crack growth life N_p . The variation is delineated by a plot of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. N_i/N_f or $\Delta\sigma$ vs. N_p/N_f , figure 11. This plot is a straight line and can be defined by the equation

$$\frac{N_i}{N_f} = 1 - \frac{N_p}{N_f} = 1.73 - 0.04 \Delta\sigma \quad (7)$$

The ratio of fatigue crack growth life to total fatigue life N_p/N_f or $(1 - N_i/N_f)$ was noticed to decrease with increasing total fatigue life N_f . This variation is shown by a plot of N_p/N_f vs. N_f on log-log coordinates in figure 12. This plot is a straight line defined by the equation

$$\frac{N_p}{N_f} = 1 - \frac{N_i}{N_f} = 245 N_f^{-0.63} \quad (8)$$

$$\text{or} \quad \frac{N_i}{N_f} = 1 - \frac{N_p}{N_f} = 1 - 245 N_f^{-0.63} \quad (9)$$

DISCUSSION

The determined stress concentration factor $K_t = 3.12$ at the hole edge in the employed specimen of width $w = 1.50$ in. and hole diameter $d = 0.25$ in. is in agreement with those reported by others.^{7,8} Howland's curve⁷ of K_t vs. d/w indicates $K_t = 3.095$ for a specimen of $w = 1.50$ in. and $d = 0.25$ in. Employing the Heywood's empirical equation⁸,

$$K_t = \frac{2 + (1 - d/w)^3}{(1 - d/w)} \quad (10)$$

K_t is calculated to be 3.094 for $w = 1.50$ in. and $d = 0.25$ in.

The measured values of yield stress (64.5 ksi), ultimate tensile stress (73.5 ksi), and elastic modulus (9.7×10^3 ksi) of the specimen material, 7475-T7351 aluminum alloy, are close to and confirm those reported by others⁹⁻¹¹, table I.

In this study, two different plots of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$ (or $\log N_f$) and $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$ (or $\log N_f$) were employed to relate the applied stress range $\Delta\sigma$ with the fatigue crack initiation life N_i or the total fatigue life N_f . The plot of $\Delta\sigma$ vs. $\log N_i$ (or $\log N_f$) represents the overall variation of N_i (or N_f) with $\Delta\sigma$ and delineates a threshold stress range for fatigue crack initiation

$\Delta\sigma_{th}$, if it exists. The $\Delta\sigma_{th}$ is equivalent to the fatigue limit in a typical S-N curve. Foreman¹ and Wetzel¹² also employed this semi-long plot, but Allery and Birkbeck¹³ preferred a log-log plot. The plot of $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$ vs. $\log N_i$ (or $\log N_f$) reflects the influence of $\Delta\sigma_{th}$ on the fatigue crack initiation life N_i (or the total fatigue life N_f).

The fatigue crack growth rate $da/dN = (5.45 \times 10^{-9}) \cdot (\Delta K)^{2.94}$, found in this study, is close to that determined by Margolis¹¹, $da/dN = (2.13 \times 10^{-9}) \cdot (\Delta K)^{3.51}$. To obtain this result, Margolis¹¹ fatigue-tested compact tension specimens under constant amplitude loading of stress ratio $R = 0.5$, stress intensity factor range $\Delta K < 26$ ksi, and frequency $f = 360$ cpm in dry air.

As indicated by $N_i/N_f = 0.61 \sim 0.99$ within the limits of $\Delta\sigma$ value employed, the fatigue crack initiation occurs quite late in the total fatigue life, and the smaller the $\Delta\sigma$ value, the longer is the fatigue crack initiation stage. A similar observation was also made by Manson¹⁴ in the fatigue study of 410 stainless steel, 4130 steel, 2024-T4 aluminum alloy, pure aluminum, pure nickel, and polycarbonate resin. Especially, in the case of polycarbonate resin, the initiation of a crack, 0.002 to 0.003 in. deep, occurred at approximately 65% of the total fatigue life for the low cycle test and 85% for the high cycle test. He related N_i and N_f with the following equation

$$1 - \frac{N_i}{N_f} = 2.5 N_f^{-1/3} \quad (11)$$

The numerical factors in this equation, the intercept and slope of log-log plot, are different from those of equation 8, which was formulated in this study.

CONCLUSIONS

From this fatigue study with the zero load transfer specimen of 7475-T7351 aluminum alloy, the following is concluded.

1. The fatigue crack initiation life N_i can be related to the applied stress range $\Delta\sigma$ by the following two equations

$$(a) \log N_i = 8.51 - 0.17 \Delta\sigma \quad \text{for } \Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$$

$$(b) \log N_i = 5.63 - 0.17 (\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$$

2. The variation of fatigue crack growth rate da/dN with stress intensity factor range ΔK is defined by the equation

$$da/dN = (5.45 \times 10^{-9}) \cdot (\Delta K)^{2.94}$$

3. The total fatigue life N_f can be related to the applied stress range $\Delta\sigma$ by the following two equations

$$(a) \log N_f = 8.19 - 0.15 \Delta\sigma \quad \text{for } \Delta\sigma > \Delta\sigma_{th}$$

$$(b) \log N_f = 5.64 - 0.15 (\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$$

4. The crack initiation portion of the total fatigue life, N_i/N_f , is greater than 60% within the employed stress range limits, and it increases with decreasing $\Delta\sigma$ and increasing N_f , as indicated by the equation

$$\frac{N_i}{N_f} = 1.73 - 0.04 \Delta\sigma = 1 - 245 N_f^{-0.63}$$

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TABLE I. MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF 7475-T7351
ALUMINUM ALLOY

YIELD STRESS σ_{ys} , (ksi)	ULTIMATE TENSILE STRESS σ_{tu} (ksi)	ELASTIC MODULUS E , (ksi $\times 10^3$)	REFERENCE
64.5	73.5	9.7	this study
64.0	74.0	—	9
62.0	70.2	10.4	10
60.6 — 62.0	71.6 — 72.8	11.0	11

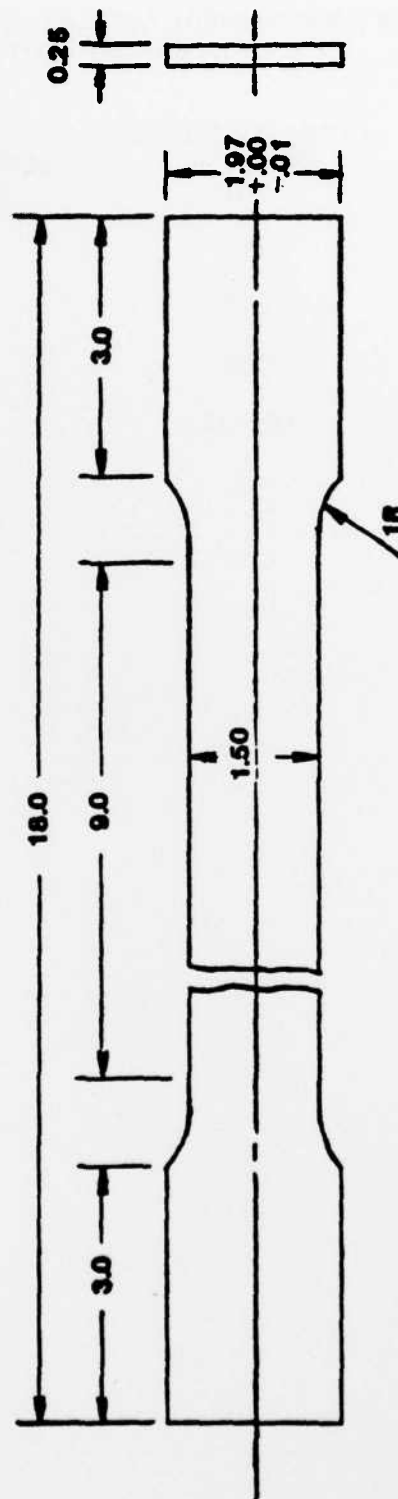


Figure 1. Tensile Test Specimen

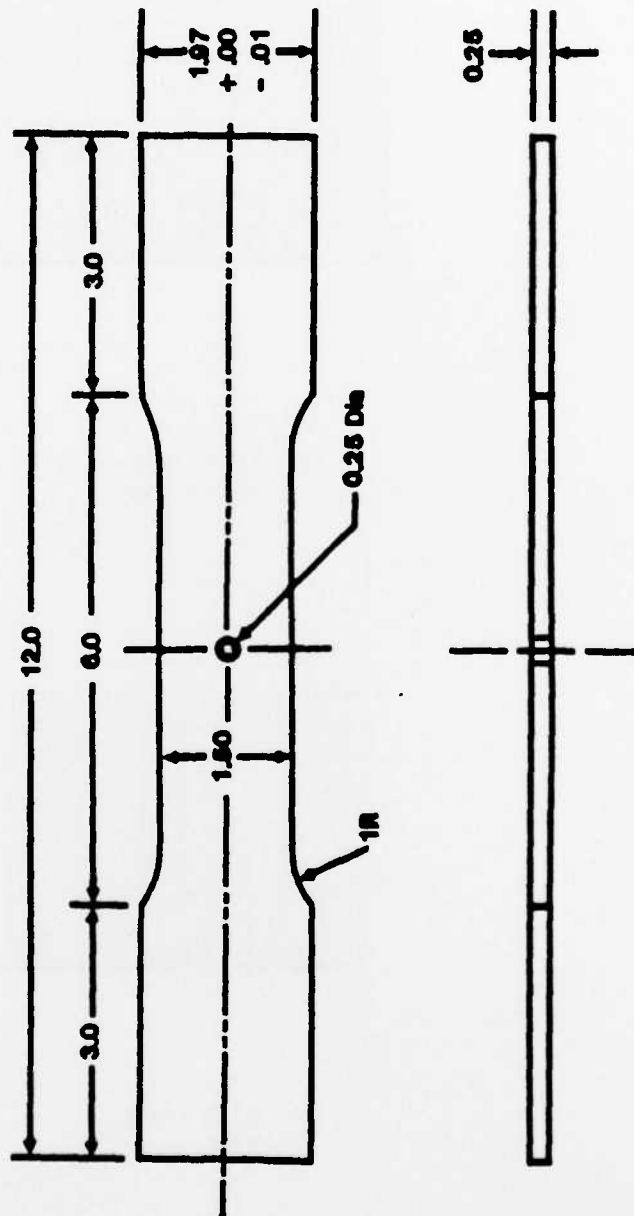
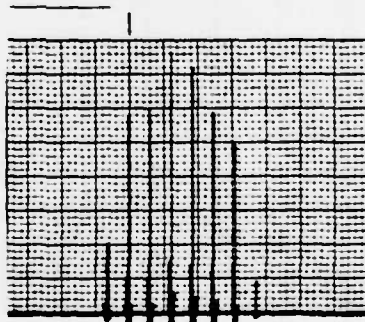


Figure 2. Fatigue Test Specimen



(a) 0.060 in. long
0.030 in. deep



(b) 0.120 in. long
0.060 in. deep

Figure 3. Eddy Current Signal Spikes from
EDM Notches

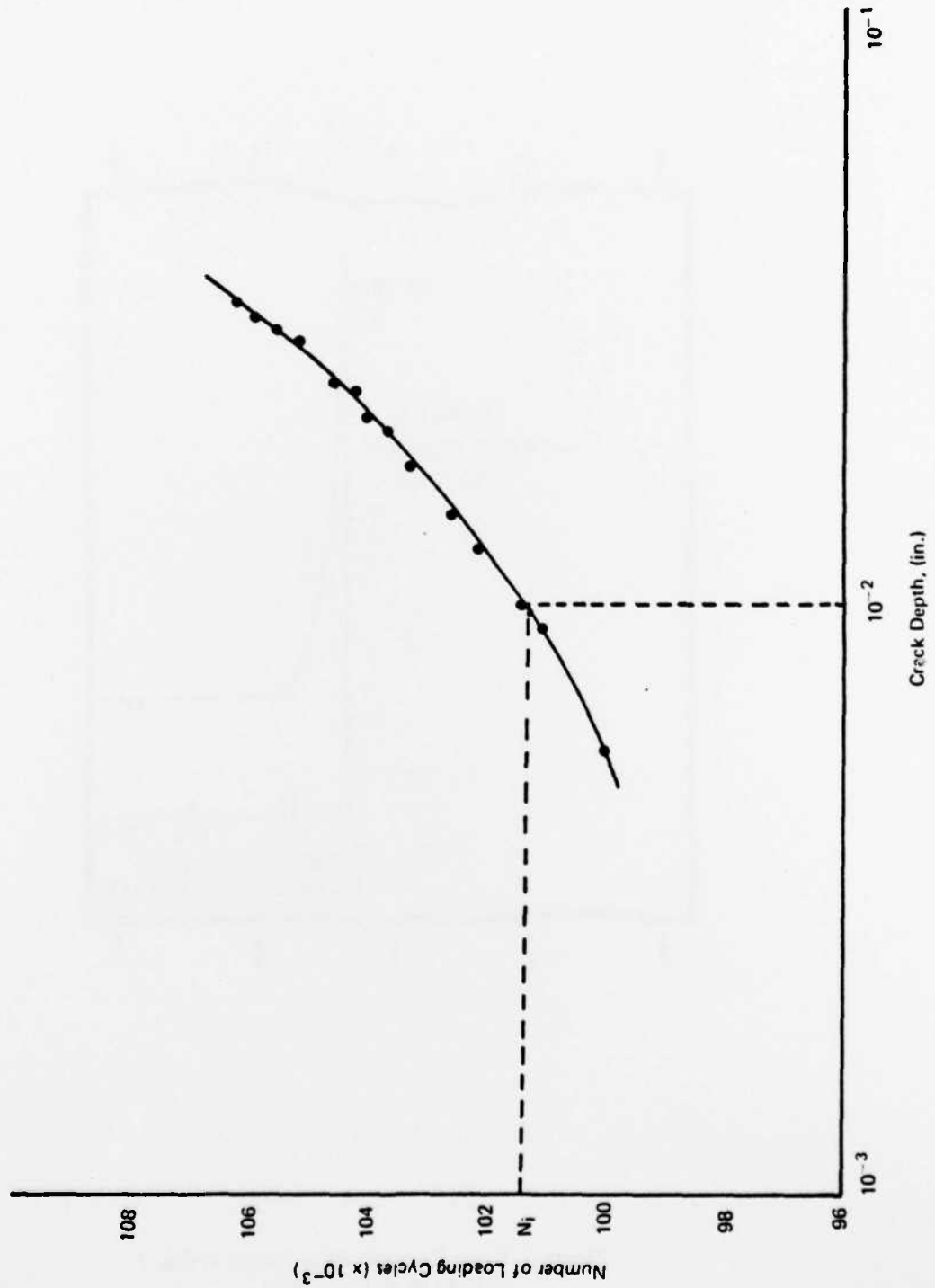


Figure 4. Crack Growth Curve Established with Eddy Current Inspection Result

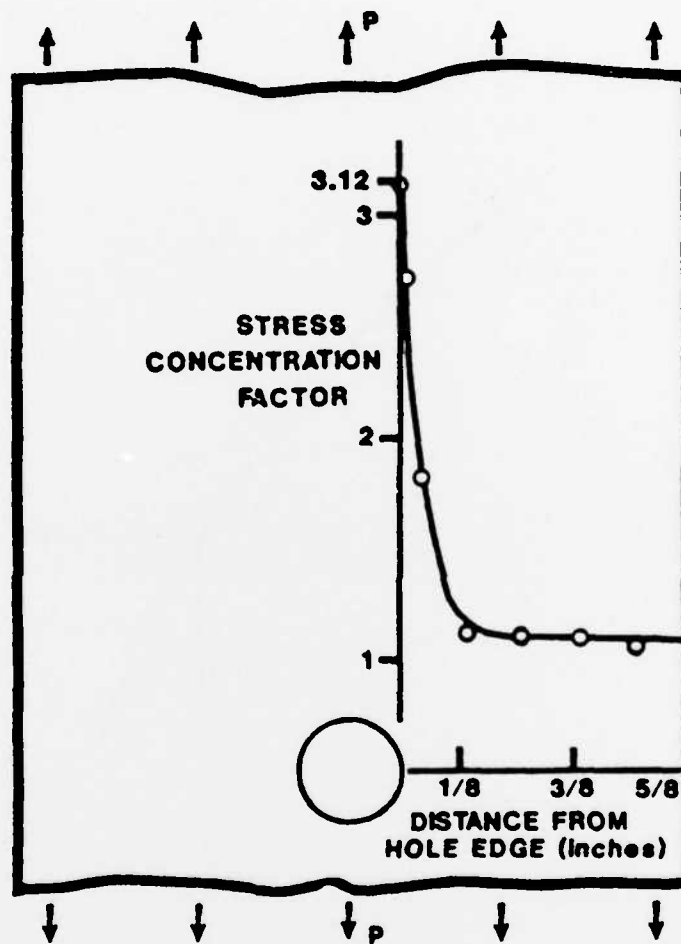


Figure 5. Stress Concentration Factor in the Vicinity of an Open-Hole

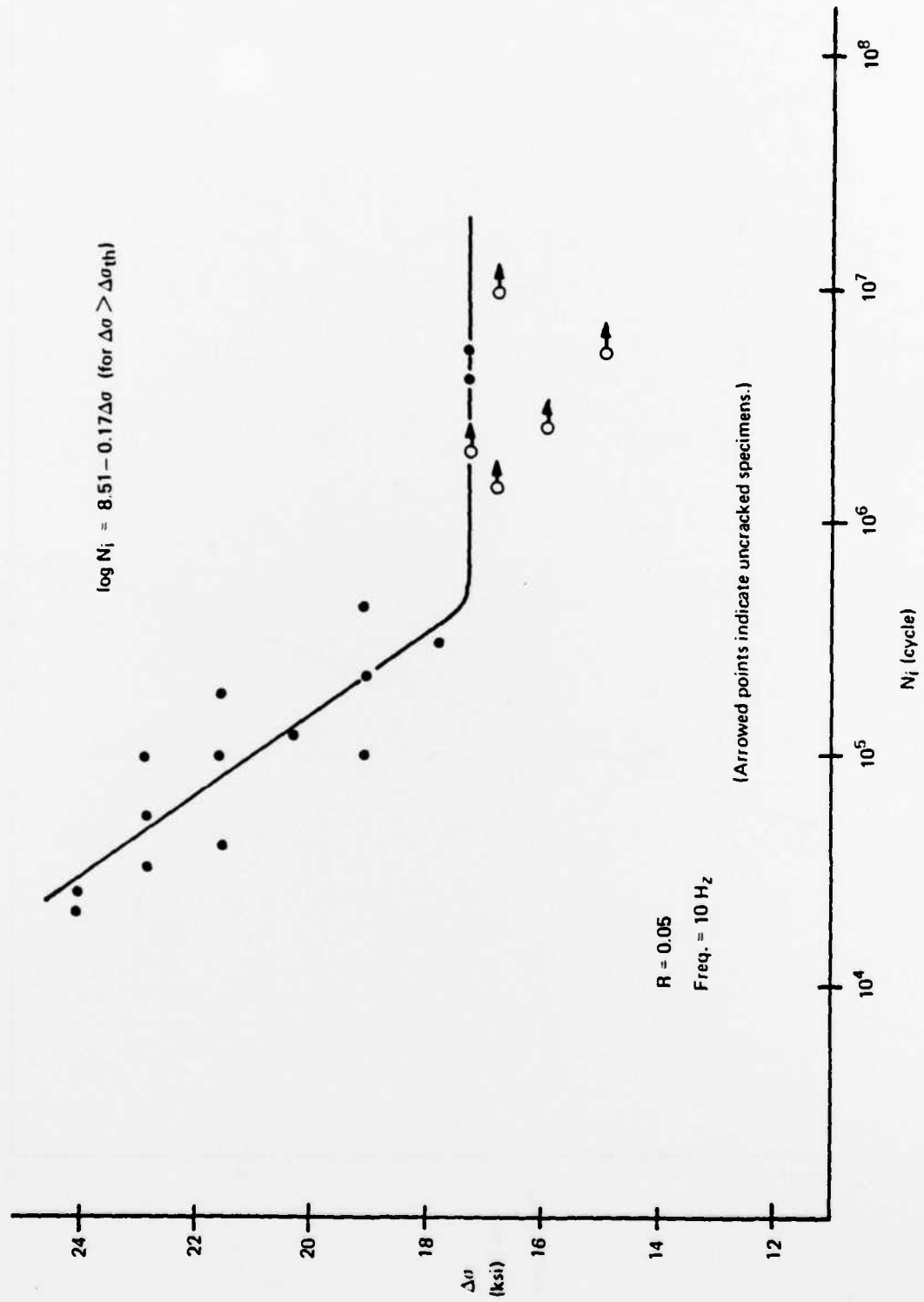


Figure 6. Variation of Fatigue Crack Initiation Life N_i with Stress Range $\Delta\sigma$

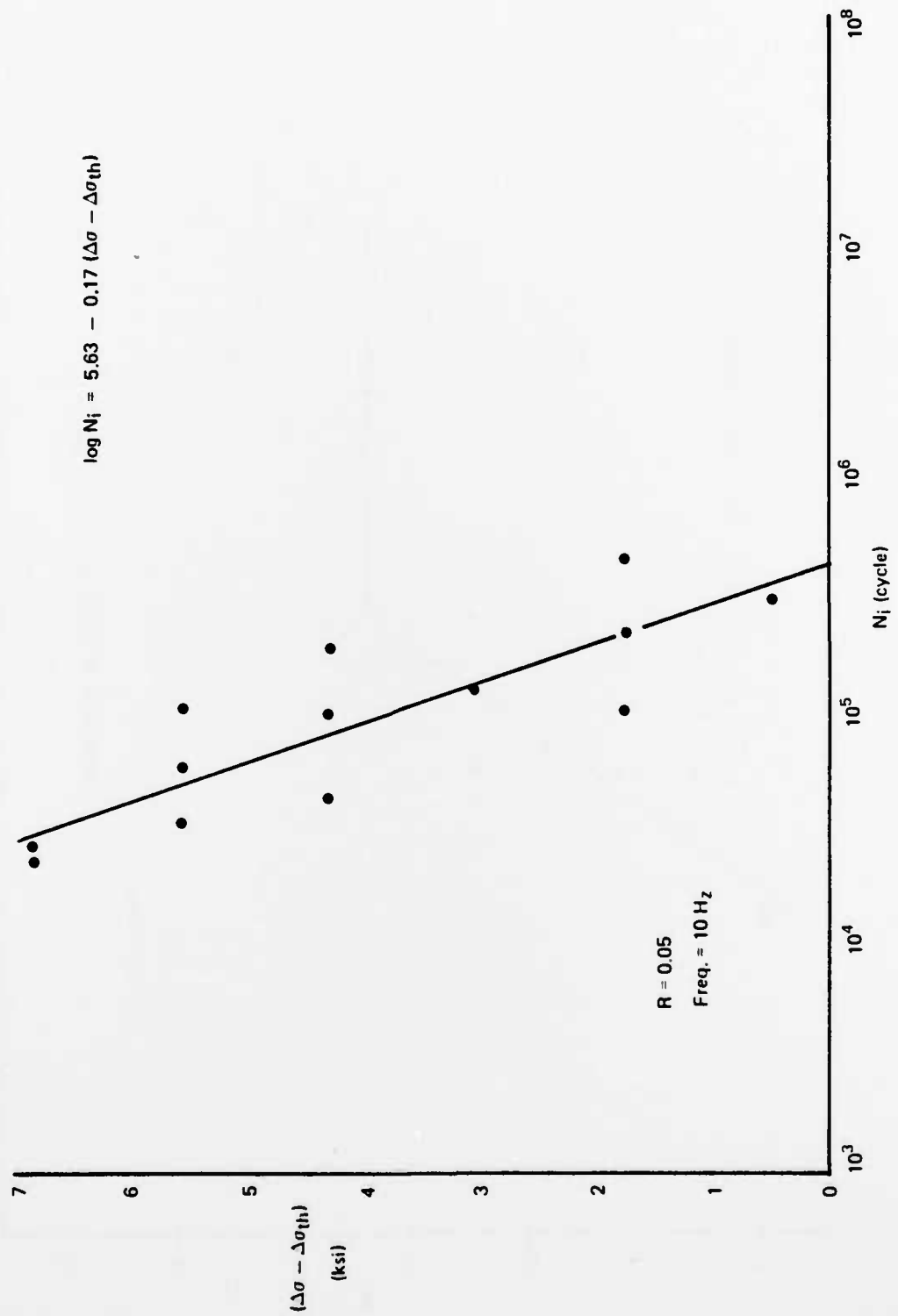


Figure 7. Variation of Fatigue Crack Initiation Life N_i with $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$

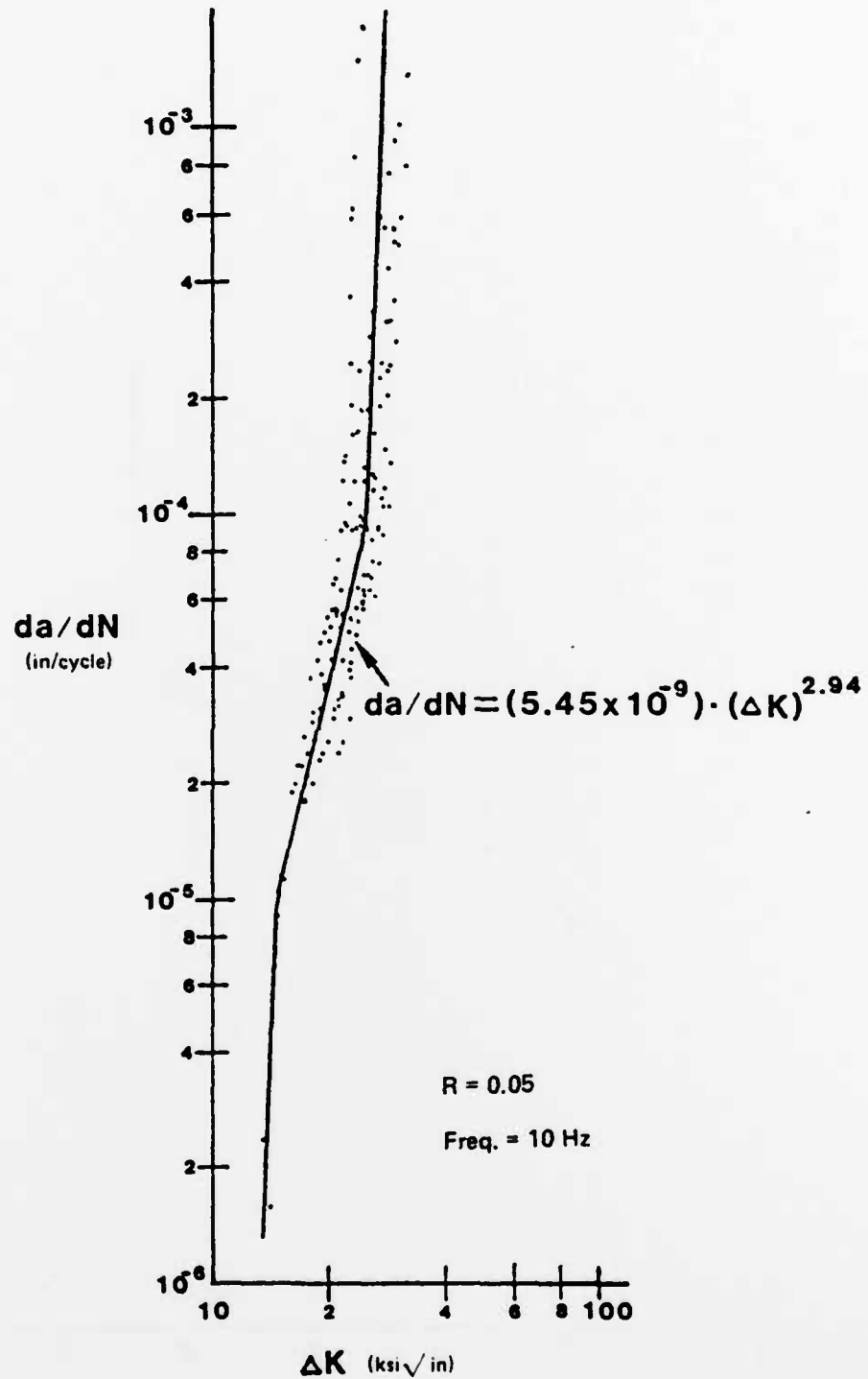


Figure 8. Variation of Fatigue Crack Growth Rate da/dN with Stress Intensity Factor Range ΔK

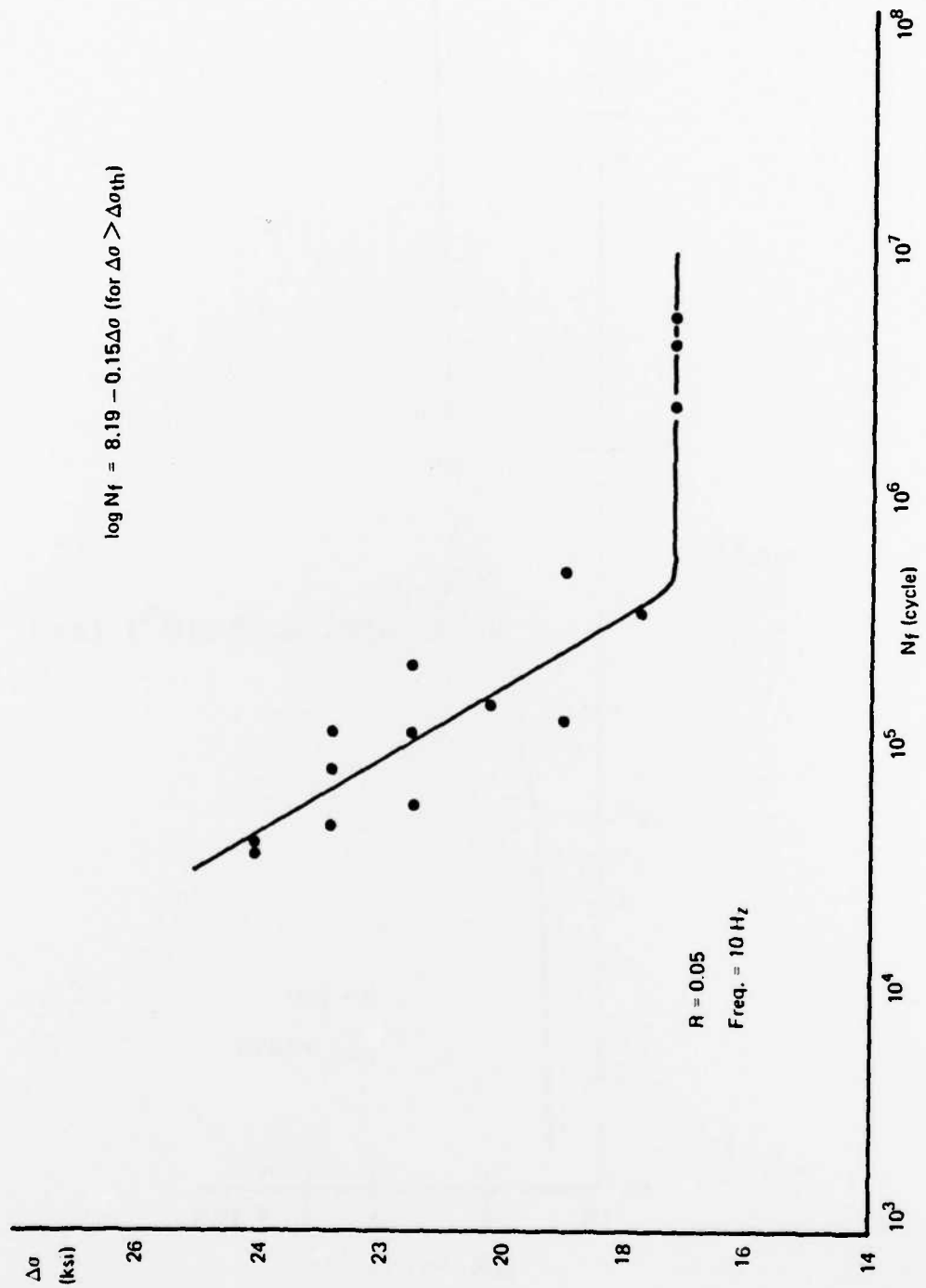


Figure 9. Variation of Total Fatigue Life N_f with Stress Range $\Delta \sigma$

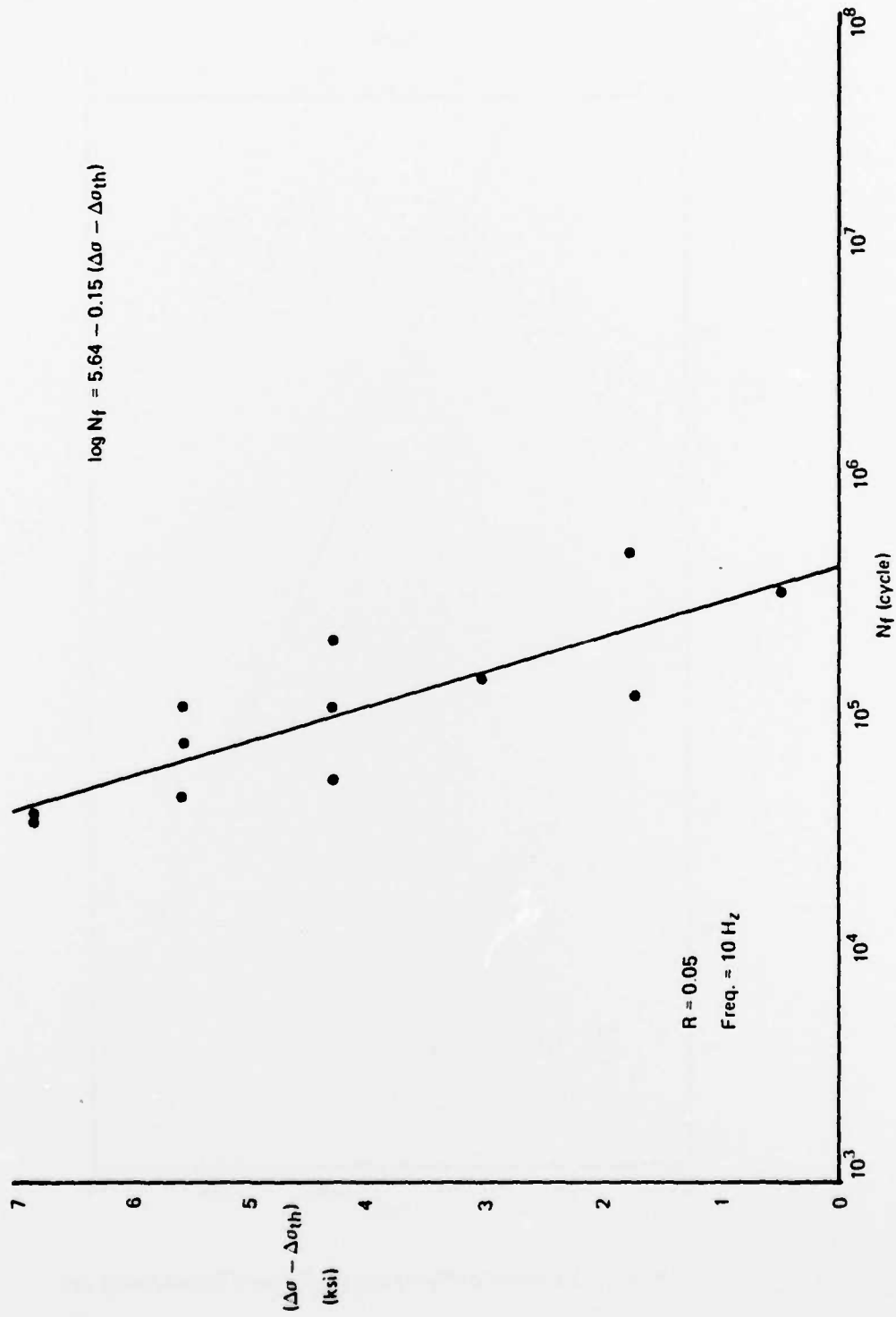


Figure 10. Variation of Total Fatigue Life N_f with $(\Delta\sigma - \Delta\sigma_{th})$

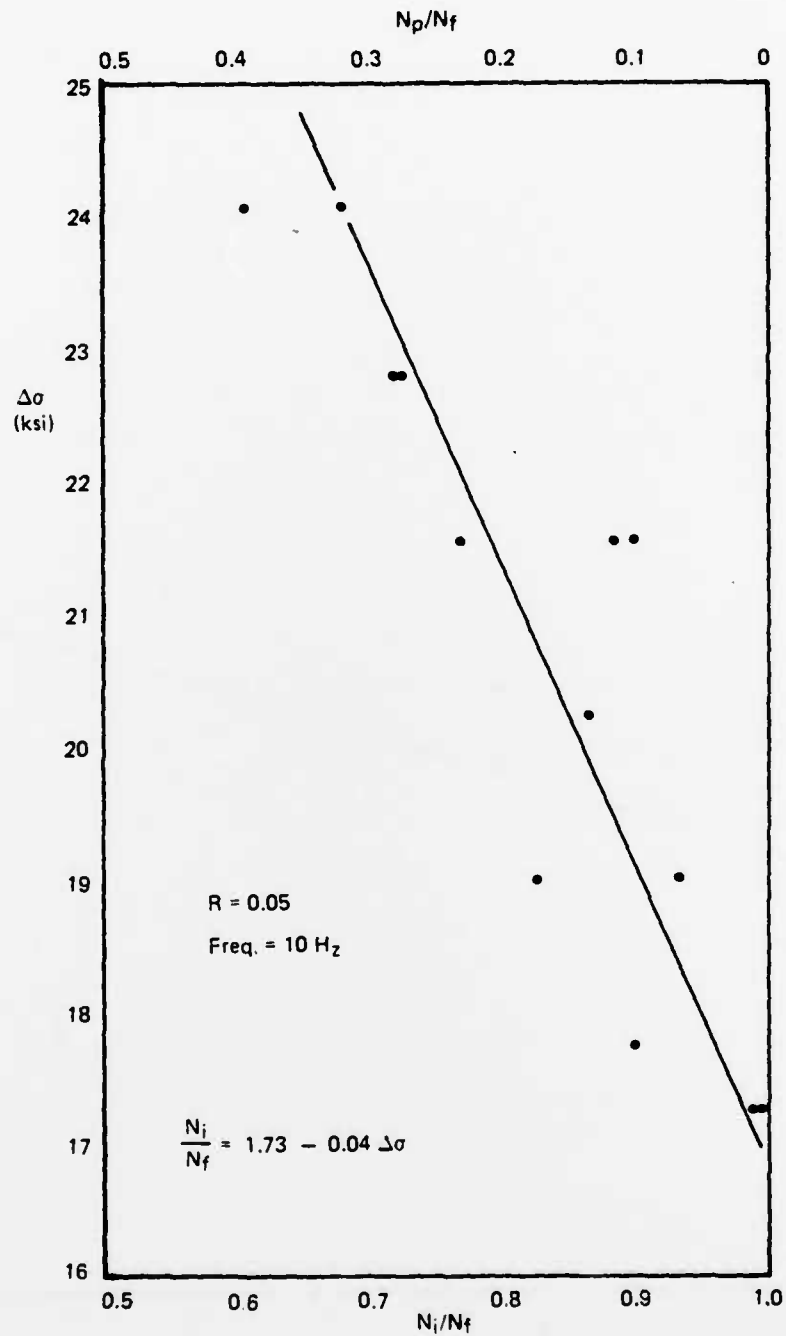


Figure 11. Variation of N_i/N_f and N_p/N_f with Stress Range $\Delta\sigma$

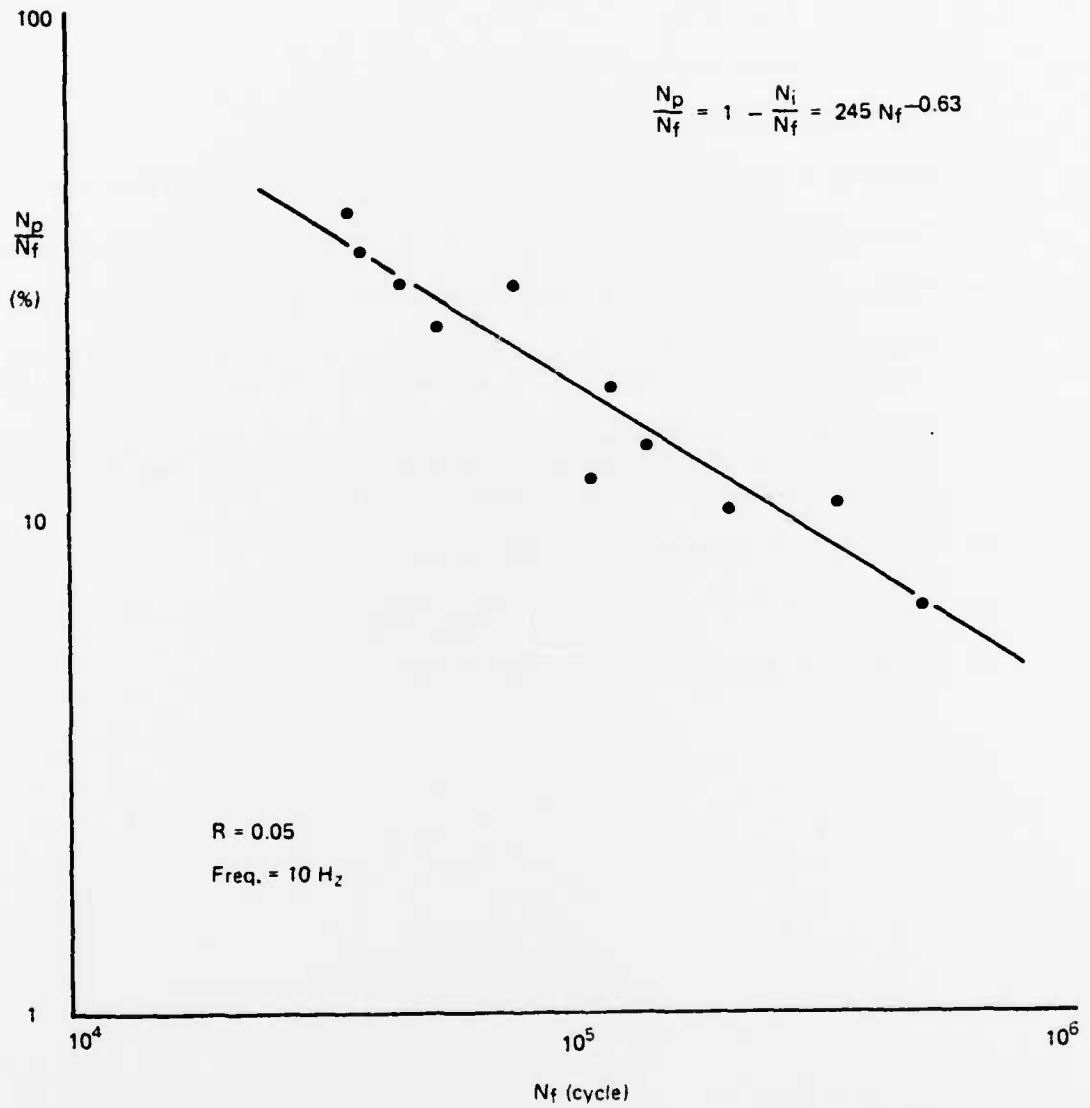


Figure 12. Variation of N_p/N_f with Total Fatigue Life N_f

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MCAS, Cherry Point (Code 340), North Carolina	1
ONR, Washington, D.C. 20362	1
USAF Systems Command, WPAFB, Ohio 45433	
(Attn: FBR)	1
(Attn: FB)	1
(Attn: LLD)	1
(Attn: FYA)	1
(Attn: LAM)	1
(Attn: FBA)	1
(Attn: LPH)	1
DTIC	12
NAVAIRDEVCCEN(8131).....	3
NAVAIRDEVCCEN(6043).....	8

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